

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Please amend claims 3, 5 and 6, as indicated.
Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 9 remain as-is.**

1. (Original). A method for scheduling transactions within a computing system, comprising the steps of:

- receiving a transaction request from a client;
- determining the idle server process that most recently finished execution of a previous transaction, and forwarding the transaction request to the most recently idle process.

2. (Original). A method in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the most recent finish time and the status of a server process.

3. (Currently Amended). A method in accordance with Claim 1 [[or 2,]] whereby the method is implemented as a sub-module within a gateway process module, whereby the gateway module is responsible for receiving transaction requests from a client, and allocating the requests to server processes.

4. (Original). A method in accordance with Claim 3, the method further comprising the step of storing the most recent finish time and the status of a server process.

5. (Currently Amended). A method in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ Claim 1, wherein the method is implemented as a software module arranged to operate in an enterprise application environment.

6. (Currently Amended). A method in accordance with ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ Claim 3, wherein each server process interacts with a separate central processing unit.

7. (Original). A system for scheduling transactions within a computing system, comprising:

- a transaction request means arranged to receive a transaction request from a client;

- determination means arranged to determine the idle server process that most recently finished execution of a previous transaction; and

- forwarding means arranged to forward the transaction request to the most recently idle process.

8. (Original). A computer program arranged, when loaded onto a computer, to instruct the computer to operate in accordance with a system for scheduling transactions within a computing system, comprising:

- a transaction request means arranged to receive a transaction request from a client;

- determination means arranged to determine the idle server process that most recently finished execution of a previous transaction; and

- forwarding means arranged to forward the transaction request to the most recently idle process.

9. (Original). A computer readable medium having a computer readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer to operate in accordance with a system for scheduling transactions within a computing system, comprising:

- a transaction request means arranged to receive a transaction request from a client;

- determination means arranged to determine the idle server process that most recently finished execution of a previous transaction; and

- forwarding means arranged to forward the transaction request to the most recently idle process.